

"Siegfried's Funeral Music," from Die Götterdämmerung of Richard Wagner (NBC Symphony Orchestra, Arturo Toscanini, conductor; WNCN)

Three ineffable minor chords and Siegfried's funeral begins and the dead Siegfried will raise his arm in the legendary miracle of denunciation and Hagen will not have the ring and the sword motif is re-iterated and Wotan's great thought at the close of Das Rheingold is finally vindicated in this incredible moment. Beginnings and endings and "Let great logs be brought to the bank and heaped in a mighty pile. Let the flames leap to the sky and consume the noble corpse of this first of all men. And bring Grane, his horse, that we both may follow our hero, for I long to share with my body the holiest honor due to this man. Fulfill Brunnhilde's word!" Siegfried and Brunnhilde and Lohengrin and Elsa and a swan-drawn boat bearing a knight in shining armour arrives and Hugh of Lincoln vigorously supported the common people against the King's foresters who enforced the savage forest laws in the vast royal hunting grounds and Hugh of Lincoln and Lohengrin. Beginnings and endings and when the only surviving child of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon died the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn became Queen of England and "She found herself a sane woman in a universe of violent maniacs, between contending forces of terrific intensity--the rival nationalism of France and Spain, the rival religions of Rome and Calvin. For years it had seemed inevitable that she should be crushed by one or the other of them and she had survived because she had been able to meet the extremes around her with her own extremes of cunning and prevarication. It so happened that the subtlety of her intellect was exactly adapted to the complexities of her environment" said Lytton Strachey on pages twelve and thirteen in the Austria Edition (1943), composed in Candida, 9 Point on 10, and printed in Vienna by Waldheim-Eberle, of Elizabeth and Essex. Beginnings and endings and human nature and the human mind and Elizabeth the real and Elizabeth the apparent and "the supreme phenomenon of Elizabethanism" (Strachey, opere citato, p. 11) that is to say Elizabeth the apparent defeated the Spanish Armada and the swan-knight defeats Telramund. Lohengrin the real and Lohengrin the apparent and a white dove of the Grail flies down and draws the boat away.

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